

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A gasket for preventing high-temperature fluid of an internal combustion engine from leaking, the gasket being located between an adjacent pair of components of the engine, wherein the gasket comprising: ~~includes~~:

a gasket plate made of an electrically insulating material, the gasket plate having a hole; and

an annular sealing member made of a material having a higher heat resistance than the gasket plate, wherein the annular sealing member covers part of the gasket plate that defines the hole,

wherein the annular sealing member includes:

a pair of holding portions that hold the gasket plate in between; and

a coupler portion that couples the holding portions to each other in the hole,

the gasket further comprising: ~~being characterized by~~:

a deformation restricting portion that restricts deformation of the annular sealing member along the thickness of the gasket plate.

2. (currently amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the fluid is combustion gas generated as the engine operates.

3. (currently amended) The gasket according to claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the pair of the components are a cylinder block and a cylinder head, the cylinder block having a cylinder bore, and wherein the hole is formed to correspond to the cylinder bore.

4. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~[[to 3]]~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the electrically insulating material is a synthetic resin.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~[[to 4]]~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the annular sealing member is formed by bending a plate member.



7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of claim~~[[ s]] 1 [[to 6]], wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the deformation restricting portion extends along the thickness of the gasket plate between the holding portions.

9. (currently amended) The gasket according to claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the deformation restricting portion has a length that is substantially equal to the thickness of the gasket plate.

10. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 9]], wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the deformation restricting portion is formed by bending part of one of the holding portions toward the other holding portion.

11. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 10]], wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the internal combustion engine has a cylinder, and the gasket plate is formed of a single plate member, the gasket further comprising:

a sensor for detecting a state in the cylinder, the gasket plate having a guide hole, wherein a lead extending from the sensor passes through the guide hole.

12. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 11]], wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the high heat resistance material is a stainless steel.